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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 27, 2004.

Mani Adeli

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application for:

Steven Teig

Serial No.: 09/742,171

Filing Date: 12/19/00

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
QUANTIFYING THE QUALITY OF
PLACEMENT CONFIGURATIONS IN
A PARTITIONED REGION OF AN
INTEGRATED-CIRCUIT LAYOUT**

Examiner: A. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

Assistant Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2003, please amend the patent application as follows:

Amendment to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.